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TENNCARE CONTINUES TO ACHIEVE SHARP REDUCTION IN STATE COMPTROLLER AUDIT FINDINGS

IMPROVED MANAGEMENT AND EFFICIENCY REFLECTED IN AUDIT RELEASED TODAY

NASHVILLE – The Bureau of TennCare continues to make solid gains in its operational efficiency, as evidenced by a State Comptroller audit report released today. The audit shows a significant decrease in the number and severity of findings, down to only three today compared to 39 just six years ago.

TennCare's level of operational and fiscal efficiency has enabled it to be a better steward of State funds. In his State of the State address last month, Governor Phil Bredesen called the agency's turnaround remarkable.

"The progress we continue to experience in reducing audit findings points to our commitment to fiscal responsibility and sound operations," said TennCare Director Darin Gordon. "We are proud of the great progress we have made in resolving past audit findings, and we are committed to continuing to work with the Comptroller's office to aggressively address any outstanding or future issues and to build on our operational success."

As an example, one of the three findings noted in the latest report pertains to TennCare's inability to annually check the eligibility of a group of about 154,000 recipients due to a long-standing court order known as *Daniels*. TennCare has already taken steps to address this final recurring audit finding and to move this long-standing case to resolution.

TennCare is Tennessee's managed-care Medicaid program, serving approximately 1.2 million low-income children, pregnant women and disabled Tennesseans, with an annual budget of \$7 billion.

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